

## SURVEY RESULTS

### Active Gangs

***“During [the previous year], were any street gangs active in your jurisdiction?”***

*[ based on all survey respondents]*

#### **2001 Survey**

Almost all agencies in the survey sample (95%, or 195 agencies) responded to this question. One in three responding agencies (33%) reported active gangs in their jurisdiction during the year 2000. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) reported no gang presence during the preceding year, while three agencies (2%) did not know.

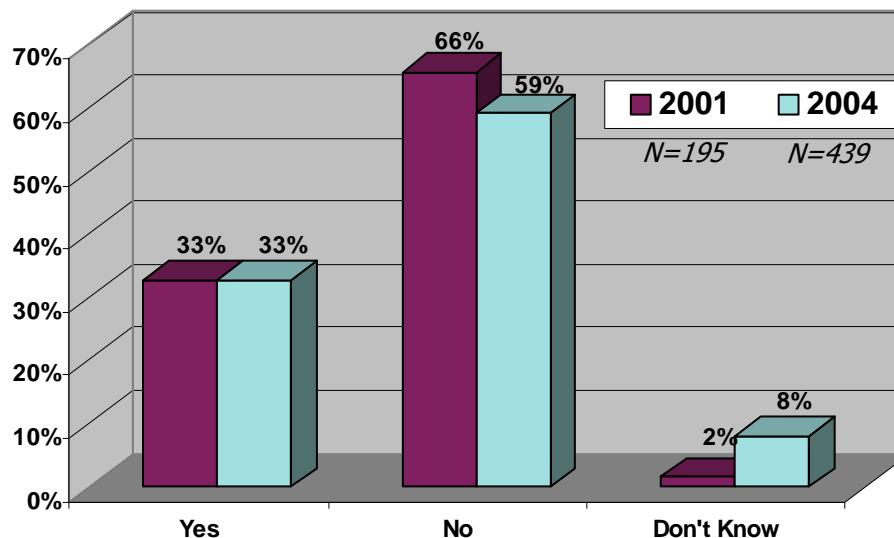
#### **2004 Survey**

Nearly every responding agency answered this question (436 out of 439, or 99%). Consistent with the results from the 2001 survey, one out of every three municipal respondents (143, or 33%) responded “yes,” gangs were active in their jurisdiction during 2003. More than half of all responding municipal agencies (258, or 59%) reported no active street gangs in their jurisdiction during 2003. The proportion of respondents that did not know was 8% (35 agencies).

**Table 1. Gang Presence Reported by NJ Municipalities**

	2001	2004
<b>Yes</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Did Not Respond</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>439</b>

**Chart 1. Gang Presence Reported by NJ Municipalities**



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### **Types of Municipalities Reporting Active Gangs**

In 2001, the 64 respondents reporting active gangs represented nearly all types of jurisdictions in New Jersey. The only exception was municipalities classified by the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit (UCR) as “rural,” which reported no active gangs. Respondents from urban suburbs accounted for the greatest proportion of respondents reporting gangs (39%), closely followed by jurisdictions classified as urban center (31%) and suburb (27%). Only 2 rural centers reported active gangs in 2001.

In contrast, in 2004, the percentage of respondents from suburbs reporting active gangs increased from 27% to 39%. The proportion of urban centers represented in the jurisdictions reporting active gangs decreased from 31% to 17%.<sup>3</sup> Notably, active gangs reported by rural municipalities and rural centers both increased to 6%.

**Table 2: Gang Presence by Municipal Classification**

	2001		2004	
	#	%	#	%
Rural	0	--	8	6%
Rural Center	2	3%	8	6%
Suburb	17	27%	56	39%
Urban Suburb	25	39%	47	33%
Urban Center	20	31%	24	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>143</b>	

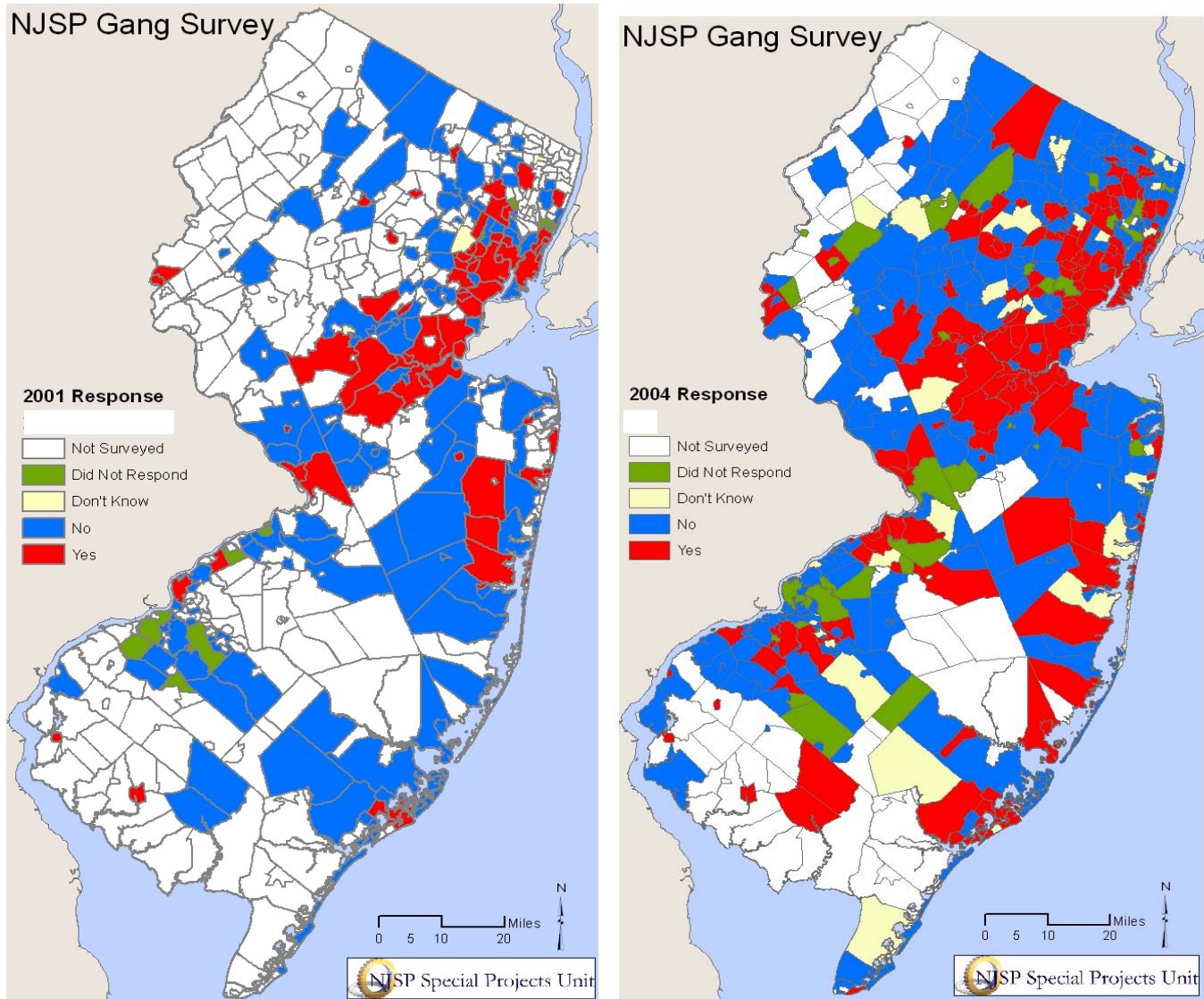
### **Comparative Analysis 2001 vs. 2004**

Even though the overall sample size increased dramatically in 2004, the proportion of municipal agencies reporting active gangs remained the same. In 2001 and in 2004, one in three municipalities reported active street gangs during the preceding year. The proportion of respondents reporting no active gangs decreased slightly from 66% in 2001 to 59% in 2004. The number of municipal respondents that could not answer whether or not street gangs were active in their jurisdiction increased slightly from 2% in 2001 to 8% in 2004.

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that although the **number** of survey respondents from urban centers remained stable (26 in 2001 and 27 in 2004), their proportion of the overall survey sample decreased from 13% to 6%. Municipalities classified as urban centers were the only municipal classification type to account for a smaller proportion of the survey sample in 2004 than in 2001.

## Map 1: Geographic Distribution of Gang Presence in NJ Municipalities



### **Gang Presence: Tracking Analysis**

The question about active street gangs appeared in both the 2001 and 2004 surveys, offering an opportunity for tracking analysis. 195 municipalities were surveyed in 2001: of these agencies, 184 also responded to the 2004 survey. Significant findings of our tracking analysis include:

- Three-quarters (75%) of agencies that reported a gang presence in 2001 reported **continued presence** of gangs when surveyed in 2004.
- More than a third (37%) of agencies that reported no gang presence in 2001 did report gang presence in their community when surveyed in 2004.
- Half (53%) of the agencies that reported no gang presence in 2001 reported a continued **absence** of gangs when surveyed in 2004.

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## Number of gangs reported

### **“How many street gangs were active in your jurisdiction...?”**

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

*The primary purpose of this question was to identify those communities in New Jersey that are experiencing the impact of a multiple gang presence. By itself, the question is not a particularly useful method of identifying the total number of gangs active in the state.*

*Determining the number of active gangs in New Jersey is more difficult than it might appear. Some gangs have developed more coordinated leadership structures and practices than others. Their presence in two (or more) locations could still be considered one gang, since they possess the same leadership and coordinate activities. For example, Latin Kings in the northern part of New Jersey may associate and communicate with members in the southern part of the state, and may report to the same leadership structure.*

*Other gangs share a common name and have the same identifying characteristics, but in many cases are unaware of each other's existence and therefore cannot coordinate their activities. The Bloods street gang falls into this category. In the 2004 survey, 110 municipalities mentioned various Bloods sets with an estimated aggregate membership of 4,064 members. In fact, one jurisdiction reported the presence of 16 different Bloods sets. However, investigative information and intelligence reports suggest that many Bloods sets operate independently, with little-to-no coordination with other sets, particularly when they are located in non-contiguous communities. The Bloods street gang appears to function more as a “brand name” than a cohesive organization.*

*It is important to note that this statewide estimate is generated by aggregating the numbers of gangs reported from each responding jurisdiction. The total number of gangs enumerated is not a measure of “distinct” gangs. For instance, the Crips set operating in one jurisdiction may actually be the same gang operating in a neighboring town. If both agencies responding to the survey counted this Crips set in their estimate of gangs in their individual jurisdictions, then this particular gang was counted twice in the aggregation.*

### **2001 Survey**

Most agencies were able to provide an estimate of the number of gangs in their jurisdiction. Only one respondent could not. Responding agencies reported an **aggregate** sum of 287 active street gangs.

The number of active gangs reported by those jurisdictions ranged from a low of 1 to a high of 21. The overwhelming majority of respondents (75%) reported 5 or fewer gangs per jurisdiction. In fact, nearly one third of respondents (20

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named. Nine gangs were mentioned although their names were unknown to respondents. In total, 124 of the gangs mentioned were “distinct.”

### **2004 Survey**

177 agencies answered this question. Some agencies (19%, or 34 agencies) answered this question even though they responded “no” or “don’t know” or did not respond to the question about active gangs in their jurisdiction (see explanation under Survey Limitations- “Methodology/ Administration”).

In total, responding agencies mentioned the presence of 691 gangs in their jurisdictions. This represented a 25% increase from the number of gangs estimated by respondents in the previous question. Only 148 of all gangs were “distinct.” Additionally, there were 8 mentions of gangs whose names were unknown or unspecified. See Appendix E for a list of all distinct gang named by respondents.

## ***Geographic Distribution of Gangs***

*In addition to considering the number of gangs estimated by respondents, another important consideration is the geographic distribution of gangs throughout the state. Gangs that are present only in one or two towns may have more of a local or regional impact, whereas gangs that are reported throughout the state have a greater potential to engage in collaborative criminal activities across jurisdictional boundaries.*

### **2001 Survey**

In 2001, most of the gangs mentioned by survey respondents (80%, or 112 gangs) were located in one, two or three jurisdictions. Six gangs were moderately distributed, present in between 4 to 9 jurisdictions. An additional six gangs were mentioned by between 10 and 40 jurisdictions. Gangs in this category include:

- Latin Kings (34)
- Bloods (28)
- Neta (22)
- MS-13 (20)
- Crips (14)
- La Mugre (10)

### **2004 Survey**

Once again, in 2004, most gangs (132, or 89%) were mentioned by one, two or three jurisdictions. Other gangs, however, were much more widely distributed: eleven gangs (7% of the total named) were mentioned by between 10 and 40 jurisdictions. Four of these gangs were outlaw motorcycle clubs, which were specifically excluded from the 2001 survey. Gangs in this category include:

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • MS-13 (36)            | • Neta (22)                 |
| • Pagans MC Club (36)   | • Breed MC Club (18)        |
| • 18th Street Gang (25) | • Vatos Locos (18)          |
| • Five Percenters (22)  | • Hells Angels MC Club (15) |

- Warlocks MC Club (12)
- Dominicans Don't Play (11)
- La Mugre (10)

Three gangs were even more widely distributed: the Bloods, Crips and Latin Kings combined to account for 39% of the total number of New Jersey gangs named in the 2004 survey. The number of mentions for these gangs is noted below:

- Bloods (110)
- Crips (80)
- Latin Kings (78)

### **Comparative Analysis: 2001 vs. 2004**

Strict comparison of multiple gang mentions in the 2001 and 2004 surveys is difficult, given the greatly enlarged size of the 2004 survey sample and the explicit exclusion of outlaw motorcycle clubs from the 2001 survey. The table below, however, suggests that mentions of some gangs have increased in greater proportions than others. Further research will be necessary before definitive conclusions can be reached concerning apparent increases in the distribution of some of these gangs.

**Table 3. Gangs Mentioned by Multiple Jurisdictions**

<b>Gang Name</b>	<b>2001 # Jurisdictions</b>	<b>2004 # Jurisdictions</b>
18th Street Gang	8	25
Bloods	28	110
Breed MC Club	--	18
Crips	14	80
Dominicans Don't Play	6	11
Five Percenters	6	22
Hells Angels MC Club	--	15
La Mugre	10	10
Latin Kings	34	78
MS-13	20	36
Neta	22	22
Pagans MC Club	--	36
Vatos Locos	8	18
Warlocks MC Club	--	12

### ***Number of Gang Members Reported***

***"How many members are in the gang?"***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2001 Survey**

The 64 municipal respondents with active gangs in their jurisdictions reported a total of 7,471 gang members affiliated with 124 distinct gangs. Respondents were able to

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estimate membership size for most (72%) of those gangs. There were only 17 gangs for which membership estimates could not be provided.

According to municipal respondents in 2001, a slight majority (55%) of gangs in New Jersey were relatively small, that is, comprised of between 1 and 25 members.<sup>4</sup> However, although smaller gangs were more numerous, they collectively accounted for only 22% of the total number of gang members statewide. Larger gangs (those with more than 100 members), while fewer in number, accounted for one third (33%) of statewide gang membership.

**Table 4. 2001: Membership Size for All Gangs Reported**

Membership Size	# Gangs	% of All Gangs	Total Members	% of Statewide Membership
Unknown	84	28%	0	0%
1-25	141	<b>48%</b>	1,680	22%
26-50	44	15%	1,741	23%
51-75	7	2%	500	7%
76-100	11	4%	1,100	15%
+100	9	3%	2,450	<b>33%</b>
Total	296	100%	7,471	100%

The response to this question described the perspective of municipal agencies assessing the size of gang membership in their individual jurisdictions. A broader perspective might aggregate multiple individual mentions of gang names into a more concise group of distinct gangs. Using this approach, for example, the 2001 survey response can be seen to have identified six gangs that accounted for more than half (57%) of the total number of gang members reported. Those gangs with the largest reported membership were:

- Latin Kings (1,370)
- Bloods (994)
- Ñeta (692)
- MS-13 (513)
- Five Percenters (337)
- Crips (334)

### **2004 Survey**

The 177 responding agencies provided a cumulative estimate of approximately 16,700 gang members in New Jersey. Respondents were unable to estimate the membership for more than a third (36%) of all gangs reported (252 gangs).

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<sup>4</sup> While the definition of 'street gang' requires at least three members, respondents could classify one or two individuals as a 'gang' provided they were part of a gang active in another jurisdiction. A gang may be centered in one jurisdiction but draw individual members from numerous outlying communities.

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As in 2001, smaller gangs (those comprised of between 1 and 25 members) accounted for the largest proportion of distinct gangs identified. In 2004, they represented nearly half of all distinct gangs (47%, or 328 gangs). Once again, although the number of smaller gangs identified was very high, their collective proportion of the total statewide gang membership was only 18%. In contrast, the 28 largest gangs (those with more than 100 members) represent 4% of all gangs but account for 56% of all gang members in the state.

**Table 5. 2004: Membership Size for All Gangs  
Reported**

Membership Size	# Gangs	% of All Gangs	Total Members	% of Statewide Membership
Unknown	252	<b>36%</b>	0	0%
1-25	<b>328</b>	<b>47%</b>	2,949	<b>18%</b>
26-50	55	8%	2,077	<b>12%</b>
51-75	12	2%	811	5%
76-100	16	2%	1,520	9%
+100	28	4%	9,345	<b>56%</b>
Total	691	100%	16,701	100%

The three gangs with the largest reported aggregate membership were the Bloods (4,064), the Latin Kings (2,345), and the Crips (2,122). These three gangs represent more than half (51%) of the entire estimated statewide population of gang members.

### **Comparative Analysis**

Using municipal classification data from the New Jersey Uniform Crime Report (UCR), it is possible to evaluate the relationship between gang size and municipal type.

- Rural areas of the state reported lowest levels of gang membership (1% of statewide membership estimates) in both 2001 and 2004.
- In 2004, almost half (47%) of suburban municipalities were not able to estimate the size of gangs in their jurisdictions. Of those gangs whose membership they could estimate, smaller gangs (fewer than 26 members) made up the largest number of gangs active in their jurisdictions.
- Larger gangs –those with more than 76 members reported— were reported only in urban suburban and urban center municipalities in both the 2001 and 2004 surveys. In the 2004 survey, urban suburbs and urban center municipalities were better able to estimate the size of gangs in their jurisdictions than they had been in 2001.
- In both the 2001 and 2004 surveys, urban suburban and urban center municipalities account for over 90% of statewide gang membership estimates.

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## Gang Membership: Demographic Estimates

### Age Distribution

***“Approximately what percentage of this the gang’s members fall into the following age categories: ...less than 15; 15 to 17; 18 to 24; 24+?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### 2001 Survey

Age distribution estimates were provided for nearly every gang member (99%) that was reported by municipal respondents. According to survey respondents, most gang members (43%) are between the ages of 18-24. Nearly a third of gang members (28%) are between 15-17 years of age.

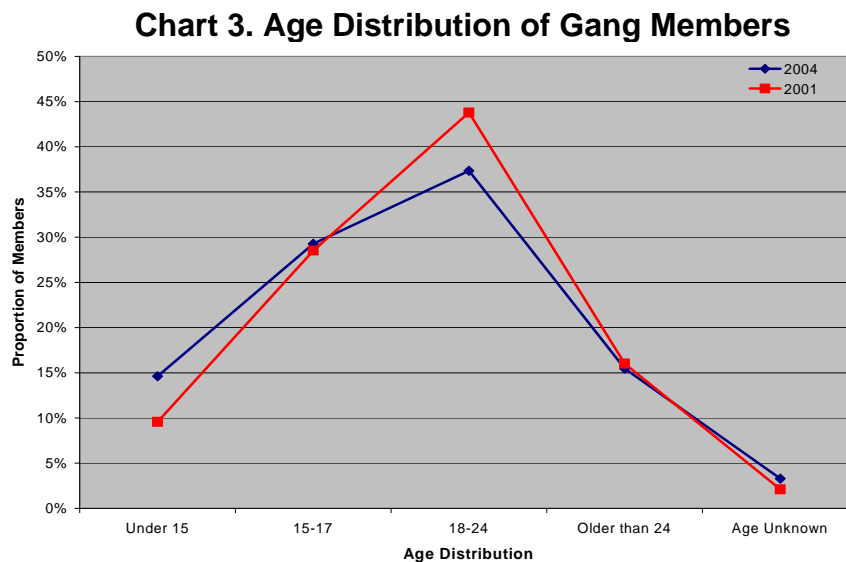
#### 2004 Survey

Agencies provided age distribution estimates for 62% of the 16,701 gang members estimated. The age distribution is as follows:

**Table 6. Age Distribution of Gang Members**

	2001	2004
Under 15	714	2,306
15-17	2,129	4,619
18-24	3,268	5,892
Older than 24	1,195	2,441
Unknown	156	519
Total	7,462	15,777

The graph below depicts the age distribution as a proportion of total gang membership.



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## **Gender Composition**

### ***“What is the ratio of male to female members?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2001 Survey**

Not all respondents to the 2001 survey were able to provide gender composition information about the gangs they identified. As a consequence, the approximate number of members for whom gender was estimated is only 37% of the total number of gang members reported. Of this subset, the proportion of male to female gang members indicated by respondents was a little more than 9 to 1 (92% to 8%).

#### **2004 Survey**

Responding agencies were able to provide estimates on gender composition for virtually the entire gang population (98% of all reported members). This represented about three quarters (70%) of all 691 gangs reported by municipal respondents.

Overall, approximately 14,658 males and 1,714 females were reported giving a male to female ratio of 9 to 1 (90% to 10%). However, there are certain gangs where females comprise a significant portion of the membership. Twenty-two gangs were reported to have a female membership of 25% or more. Those gangs were estimated to have a total of 567 female members or one third of all female gang members reported to be in New Jersey.

## **Racial/Ethnic Composition**

### ***“What is the race/ethnicity of gang members?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2001 Survey**

More than three quarters of the total gangs (78%) named were comprised of members from homogeneous racial/ethnic backgrounds. Gangs with diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds accounted for 17% of all gangs. Respondents could not estimate the racial/ethnic composition of 5% of gangs reported.

#### **2004 Survey**

The 2004 survey respondents indicated that most gangs (522, or 76%) were comprised of homogeneous racial and ethnic backgrounds. Multi ethnic/racial gangs made up 14% of all gangs reported. Racial composition was not provided for 73 gangs (11% of all gangs mentioned).

#### **Comparative Analysis**

The proportion of gangs with all-black and all-Asian members remained stable. Gangs comprised entirely of Hispanic members decreased from 47% of statewide total to 29% of the total number of gangs reported.

The proportion of all-white gangs increased from 2% of the total statewide number of gangs in 2001 to 15% of the total in 2004. This could be attributed in part to the

broadened statutory definition of “gang” provided in 2004, which applies to white supremacist, hate group and outlaw motorcycle gangs that were not included in 2001. That is not to say that white gang members belong to these groups only. It is evident from survey responses that white gang members belong to a wide variety of gangs.

**Table 7. Racial/Ethnic Composition of Gangs**

	2001		2004	
	# of Gangs	% of Statewide Total	# of Gangs	% of Statewide Total
<i>Homogeneous Race/Ethnicity</i>	231	78%	522	76%
Asian	5	2%	1	*
Black	82	28%	210	30%
Hispanic	139	47%	202	29%
White	5	2%	107	15%
Other	0	---	2	*
<i>Multi-Racial/Ethnic Gangs</i>	50	17%	96	14%
<i>Race/Ethnicity NOT Provided</i>	15	5%	73	11%
<i>Total Number of Gangs</i>	296		691	* less than 1%

## ***Gang Members and Reported Criminal Activities***

### ***Gang-Related Criminal Activities***

*In 2001, respondents were asked to estimate the extent to which gang members were involved in certain specific criminal activities. The question read as follows:*

***“Please estimate the proportion of street gang members in your jurisdiction who engaged in the following offenses during 2000: (aggravated assault, robbery, burglary/B & E, vehicle theft, larceny/theft, drug sales)”***

*In 2004, the question about criminal activity was open-ended, and respondents were free to describe any criminal activities associated with the specific gangs they named.*

***“What types of criminal activity are gang members involved in? (List all that apply)”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

*The wording difference for these two questions affects the type of analysis that can be performed and makes comparison of data from the two years difficult. In 2001, the*

question was modeled on the National Youth Gang Center's question concerning gang-related criminal activity. This question was broadly worded, asking respondents about their general knowledge of the types of criminal activities committed by gang members. In 2004, the question was changed, and respondents were asked to list any and all crimes associated with the specific gangs they named as present in their jurisdiction.

### **2001 Survey**

Nearly two thirds (63%) of 2001 survey respondents indicated that "most" or "some" gang members were involved in drug sales. Half (50%) of respondents stated that "some" or "most" gang members participated in aggravated assault (see Table 8 below).

**Table 8. 2001: Criminal Activities of Gang Members**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>Robbery</b>	<b>Burglary/ B&amp;E</b>	<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>Larceny/ Theft</b>	<b>Drug Sales</b>
None	16%	20%	20%	27%	17%	14%
Few	30%	28%	36%	33%	28%	11%
Some	31%	34%	20%	20%	25%	22%
Most	19%	5%	5%	5%	6%	<b>41%</b>
Don't Know	3%	11%	16%	13%	20%	11%
Did Not Respond	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### **2004 Survey**

Because of the specificity of this question, it is possible to analyze results first in the aggregate, then by the specific gangs most frequently mentioned by survey respondents. For the 691 gangs identified by 2004 survey respondents, a total of 1,470 answers were reported for criminal activity. This includes mentions of multiple criminal activities associated with one gang. As in 2001, narcotics related offenses were the most frequently cited crimes associated with gangs. However, it should be noted that respondents did not uniformly distinguish between narcotics sales, possession, use and manufacture. A percentage of mentions (14%) were either blank, "unspecified," "unknown," or "none." The breakdown by offense of the remaining 1,265 recorded answers is as follows:

**Table 9. 2004: Top 10 Criminal Activities Reported for Gangs**

<b>Offense Mentioned</b>	<b># of Mentions</b>	<b>% of All Answers</b>	<b>% Excluding "Unknowns"*</b>
Narcotics	325	22%	26%
Assault	238	16%	19%
Robbery	137	9%	11%
Aggravated Assault	99	7%	8%
Weapons	86	6%	7%
Theft	74	5%	6%
Homicide	59	4%	5%
Burglary	48	3%	4%
Criminal Mischief	47	3%	4%
Graffiti	41	3%	3%

\*Excludes blank responses, as well as those that indicated "unspecified," "unknown" or "none"

When the results of this question were analyzed in terms of the specific gangs named, the Bloods, Crips and Latin Kings received the most mentions. One in four (25%) criminal activity mentions are associated with the Bloods (25%), while the Crips and Latin Kings account for 14% and 11% of the total number of criminal activities mentioned. These three gangs collectively account for more than half (52%) of the top 10 criminal activities (see Table 10 below).

**Table 10. 2004: Top 10 Criminal Offenses Reported for the Top 3 Gangs Mentioned**

Offense	# of Mentions	Bloods (25%)	Crips (14%)	Latin Kings (11%)	Top 3 Total	All Other Gangs Combined
Narcotics	325	26%	15%	14%	55%	45%
Assault	238	23%	12%	10%	45%	55%
Robbery	137	25%	12%	8%	45%	55%
Aggravated Assault	99	27%	16%	4%	47%	53%
Weapons	86	22%	10%	13%	45%	55%
Theft	74	31%	15%	7%	53%	47%
Homicide	59	36%	19%	7%	62%	38%
Burglary	48	21%	13%	19%	53%	47%
Criminal Mischief	47	28%	17%	11%	56%	44%
Graffiti	41	20%	22%	20%	62%	38%

### ***Gang-Related Incidents in Schools***

***“During [the preceding year], were there gang related incidents within, or on the grounds of the schools in your jurisdiction?”***

*[based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2001 Survey**

Of the 64 respondents answering this question, half reported the presence of gang activity on school grounds. The remaining respondents were divided among those who reported no gang activity in their schools (38%) and those (13%) who were unsure whether gang-related incidents had occurred.

#### **2004 Survey**

Almost half (46%) of survey respondents reporting a gang presence in their community had noted gang-related incidents within or on the grounds of schools in their jurisdiction during 2003. A slightly smaller proportion (41%) reported that gang-related incidents had not occurred in their schools during the previous year. One respondent in ten (11%) was unsure whether gang-related incidents had occurred.

Respondents to the 2004 survey were asked to provide an estimate of the number of gang-related school incidents that had occurred. Agencies reporting gang activity within their schools estimated that at least 532 gang-related school incidents had occurred during the previous year. These municipalities were distributed throughout 18 of New Jersey's 21 counties.

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It is notable that 73 municipal agencies reporting an active gang presence in their jurisdiction go on to state that they have not observed corresponding gang activity in their schools. A further 20 municipalities responded that they didn't know whether gang incidents had occurred at schools within their jurisdiction.

Research and investigative experience consistently point to schools as a significant focus for gang recruitment and other gang activities. We would therefore expect gang activity in schools to be more widely reported by NJ agencies responding to the survey.

What are potential explanations for the fact that gangs-in-schools are reported at such lower rates by law enforcement in NJ? This discrepancy may be due to:

- a lack of sufficient protocols for reporting gang incidents on school property to local law enforcement
- insufficient ability to recognize gang activity / distinguish it from non-gang delinquent activity
- or a political climate which de-emphasizes the existence of gangs in the community.

## ***Gang Member Use of Firearms***

***How often did street gang members use firearms in the commission of crimes in your jurisdiction during [the preceding year]?***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

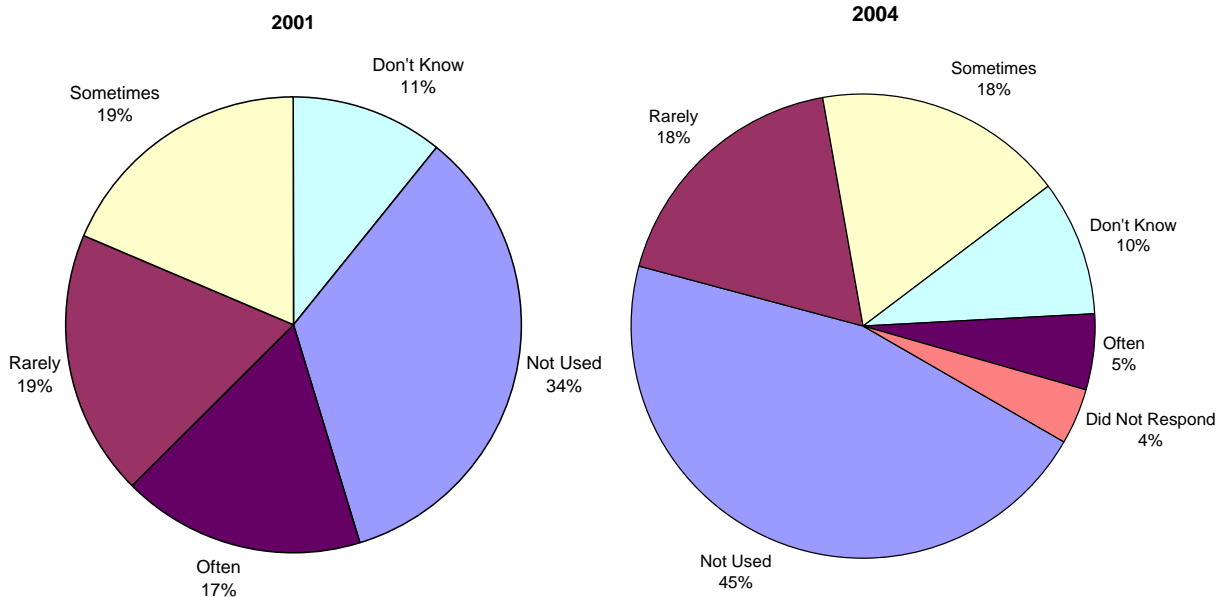
### **2001 Survey**

Roughly a third (34%) of 2001 respondents answered this question by saying that gang members did not use firearms in the commission of crimes. A further 19% said firearms were 'rarely' used by gang members. However, slightly more than a third (36%) of respondents reported that firearms were used 'sometimes' or 'often' by gang members when committing crimes.

### **2004 Survey**

More than four respondents in ten (45%) stated that gang members did not use firearms while committing crimes during 2003. Eighteen percent (18%) reported gang members 'rarely' used firearms. Less than a quarter (24%) of agencies reporting a gang presence stated that guns were used 'sometimes' or 'often' by gang members in the commission of crimes.

**Chart 4. Firearms Usage Among Gang Members**



***“Does your agency have a policy in place requiring traces on firearms recovered?”***

*[ based on all agencies responding to the 2004 survey]*

*This question was asked for the first time in the 2004 survey: comparative analysis is therefore not available.*

#### **2004 Survey**

357 (81%) of all survey respondents answered this question. The majority (69%) of respondents indicated that their agency did have a policy requiring traces on firearms recovered. Only one in ten said their agency did not require traces on firearms recovered. Nine agencies did not know whether or not their agency had a policy in place.

#### ***Release of gang members from prison***

***“How much has your street gang problem been affected in the past few years by the release of gang members from prison?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2001 Survey**

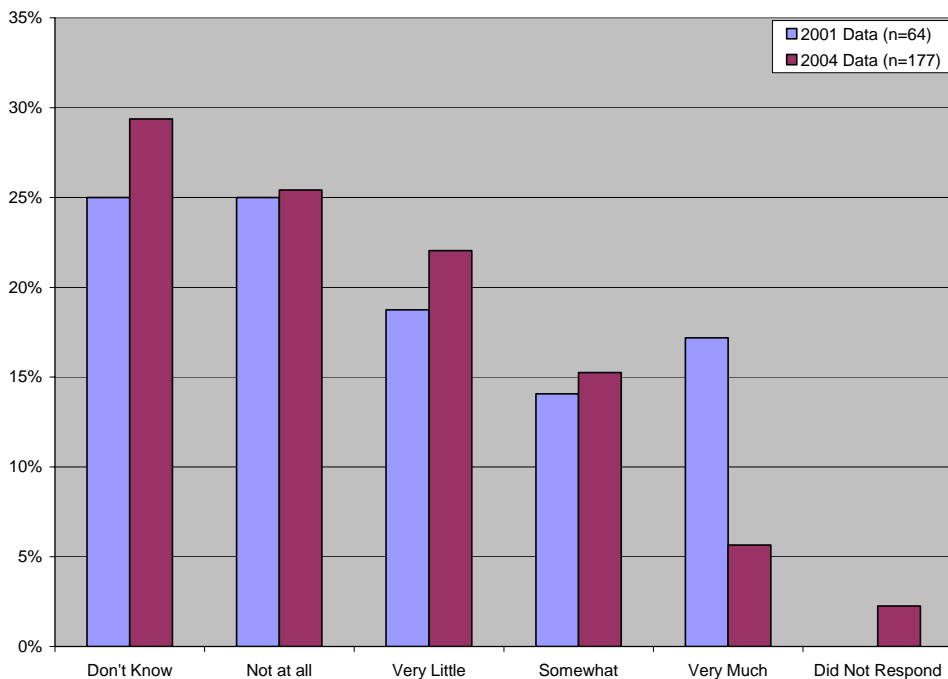
More than two-thirds (69%) of 2001 municipal respondents with gangs in their jurisdictions reported that gang members released from prison either had no effect, very little effect or an undetermined effect on the street gang problem in their jurisdiction. The remaining respondents (31%) said that gang members released from prison had affected their gang problem either ‘somewhat’ or ‘very much.’

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### **2004 Survey**

A quarter (25%) of 2004 municipal respondents with gangs in their jurisdictions stated that their street gang problems had not been affected at all by the release of gang members from prison. When combined with those who responded that street gang members released from prison had very little effect or an undetermined effect on the street gang problem, the proportion rose to 76%: three-quarters of all agencies reporting gang presence in their communities. Only a fifth (21%) of survey respondents with active street gangs in their jurisdictions reported that the release of gang members from prison impacted 'very much' (6%) or 'somewhat' (15%) on their street gang problems.

**Chart 5. Effect of Prison Release on Gang Problems**



### **Gang Homicides**

***“Overall, approximately how many homicides involving street gang members do you estimate occurred in your jurisdiction during [the preceding year]?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

### **2001 Survey**

In the 2001 survey, 10 agencies reported the occurrence of gang-related homicides during the year 2000. In total, 49 gang-related homicides were reported. This represented 17% of the total number of homicides reported to the NJSP Uniform Crime Reporting Unit (288) for the year 2000.

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### **2004 Survey**

In the 2004 survey, the proportion of reported homicides that were attributed to gang members by respondents remained unchanged. 18 agencies (roughly 10% of NJ agencies reporting a gang presence) estimated that 67 homicides involving street gang members had occurred during the year 2003. This estimate represented 17% of all homicides (406) reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Unit during that year.

### **Comparison with UCR Data**

Review of 2003 homicide data reported to the NJSP Uniform Crime Reporting Unit determined that 55 homicides occurred in municipalities that responded to the 2004 survey by stating that they were unsure or unable to determine whether 2003 homicides in their jurisdictions had involved gang members. These 55 homicides account for 14% of 2003 homicides statewide. However, investigative experience among NJSP personnel in these municipalities suggests the likelihood that at least a portion of these homicides involved gang members in some way or another.

More than a third (36%) of 2003 homicides reported to UCR occurred in municipalities that responded to the 2004 Survey by stating that homicides in their jurisdiction had no link to gang involvement.

Another third (34%) of 2003 homicides reported to UCR occurred in municipalities that either did not respond to the 2004 survey or did not answer the homicide question. Potential gang involvement in these 139 homicides cannot be determined from the survey data.

Therefore, it seems reasonable to conclude that *at least* 17% of New Jersey's homicides involve gang members and that the full number could be significantly higher.

### **Location of Gang Crimes**

#### ***“Where are gang crimes occurring in your jurisdiction?”***

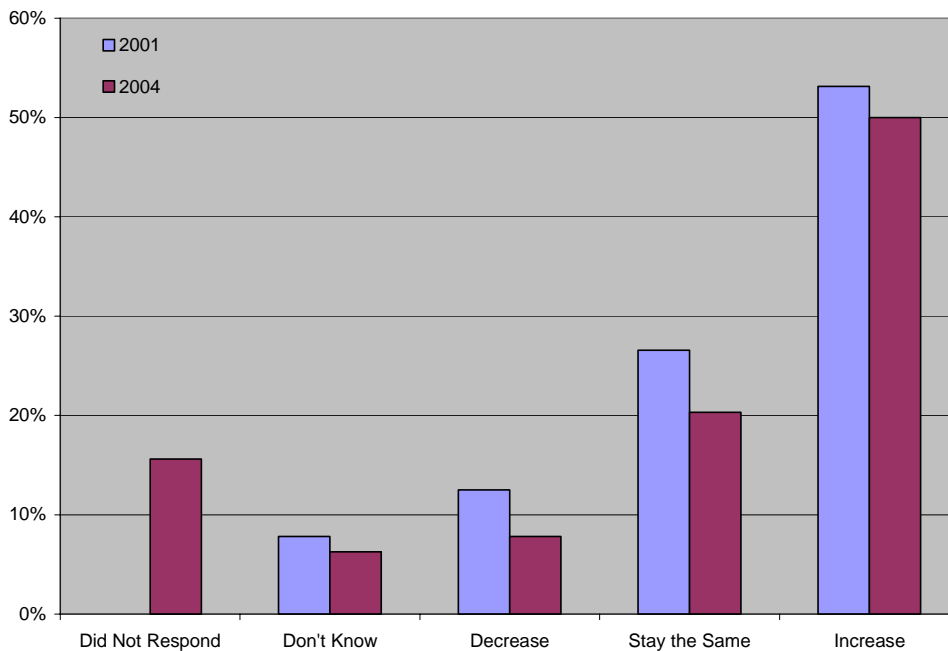
*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

*This question was added to the 2004 survey to ascertain where gang crimes were most frequently occurring. The instructions accompanying the question asked the respondent to rank a variety of locations in terms of where gang crimes are committed. A sizable portion of respondents merely checked off relevant locations rather than giving them any sort of ranking. Therefore, we are unable to gauge which, if any, of these locations are believed to be preferred by gang members for the conduct of criminal activity.*

153 survey respondents mentioned a total of 487 location types for this question. For all types of municipalities, the most commonly mentioned location was residences (18% of total). Overall, the next most cited locations were businesses (15%), parks/playgrounds (15%), and schools (14%).

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**Chart 7. Perceptions of Changes in the Gang Problem**  
**Tracking Analysis: 2001-2004**



## ***Policy Issues***

### ***Multi-Agency Cooperation***

#### ***“With whom does your agency have frequent contact on the issue of gangs?”***

*[based on all survey respondents]*

*This question was added to the 2004 survey in an effort to determine the extent to which New Jersey’s law enforcement agencies coordinated anti-gang efforts with other groups. Respondents were provided with a list of partner agencies, and were asked to check all applicable agencies with whom they had ‘frequent contact’ on the issue of gangs. Some respondents used the “Other” category to report cooperation with agencies not on the list.*

*In the 2004 survey, we compared the response of municipal agencies reporting a gang presence in their communities with those agencies that did not.*

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**Table 11. 2004: Location of Gang Crimes (N=153)**

<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Residences</b>	89	18%
<b>Parks/Playgrounds</b>	73	15%
<b>Businesses</b>	72	15%
Schools	67	14%
Motor Vehicles	55	11%
Parking Lots	54	11%
Highways	45	9%
Government Buildings	10	2%
Bars/Nightclubs	6	1%
Streets	5	1%
Other (unspecified)	2	0%
All the Above	1	0%
Abandoned buildings	1	0%
Annual carnival	1	0%
Boarding House	1	0%
Bus Depot	1	0%
Hotels/Motels	1	0%
Parties/social functions	1	0%
Wooded or rural areas	1	0%
Railroad station/tracks	1	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ***Law enforcement perception of gang trends***

### ***Most Serious Problem***

***“Which gang is the most serious problem in your jurisdiction?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2001 Survey**

88% of jurisdictions reporting a gang presence responded to this question. The Bloods were the gang most frequently cited by respondents as the most serious in their jurisdiction, receiving 14 mentions. The next most commonly cited gangs were the Latin Kings (11) and MS-13 (8).

#### **2004 Survey**

Of the 177 jurisdictions reporting a gang presence, more than three quarters (77%) responded to this question. Some respondents indicated that more than one gang was the most serious problem. By far, the Bloods were identified as the most serious problem by reporting municipalities, receiving 25% of all mentions. The next most commonly mentioned gangs were the Crips (9%) and the Latin Kings (9%).

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*The next two questions about gang recruitment and the most violent gang were not included in the 2001 survey. In tabulating the number of mentions per gang, each mention was counted separately, even when one jurisdiction cited more than one gang as the most actively recruiting or most violent.*

## **Most Actively Recruiting Gang**

### ***“Which gang is most actively recruiting new members?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2004 Survey**

Of the 177 jurisdictions reporting gang presence in 2004:

- 56 agencies (32%) did not respond to this question
- 21 agencies (12%) did not know which gang was most actively recruiting
- 12 agencies (7%) responded that no gang was most actively recruiting

The remaining 88 agencies collectively identified 29 distinct gangs as “most actively recruiting” new members. 11 agencies reported more than one gang as “most actively recruiting,” while 77 agencies mentioned a single gang.

The following is the breakdown of gangs most often cited by respondents:

<u>Gang</u>	<u># Mentions</u>
• Bloods	41
• Crips	15
• Latin Kings	7
• Pagans	5
• MS-13	5

Although these gangs were mentioned by multiple jurisdictions, the vast majority of distinct gangs (22 or 75%) were mentioned by one respondent and generally, those gangs were found only in that respondent’s jurisdiction.

This finding may illustrate the hypothesis that many gangs in New Jersey can still be considered ‘local’ or ‘neighborhood’ gangs.

## **Most Violent Gang**

### ***“Which gang commits the most violent activity?”***

*[ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]*

#### **2004 Survey**

Two thirds of survey respondents with a gang presence (66%, or 118 agencies) answered this question, while one third (59 agencies) did not.

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8% were unable to determine what change had occurred in their jurisdiction over the previous year with regards to gangs.

### **2004 Survey**

*[based on all survey respondents]*

*In the 2004 survey, we compared the response of municipal agencies reporting a gang presence in their communities with those agencies that did not.*

Agencies reporting a gang presence in 2004 responded differently to this question than those reporting no gang presence. For agencies with a gang presence, the largest proportion of respondents (44%) indicated that their jurisdiction experienced an increase in their gang problem. One third of these agencies indicated that their gang problem remained the same.

**Table 12. 2004: Perception of Agencies Reporting Gang Presence**

Perception of Change	# Agencies	% of Total
Increase	78	44%
Stay the Same	59	33%
Decrease	11	6%
Don't Know	22	12%
Did Not Respond	7	4%
Total	177	100%

For agencies with no gang presence, half of the respondents (50%) stated that their gang problem remained the same. An additional third (35%) did not respond to the question.

**Table 13. 2004: Perception of Agencies Reporting No Gang**

Perception of Change	# Agencies	% of Total
Increase	3	1%
Stay the Same	130	50%
Decrease	2	1%
Don't Know	32	12%
Did Not Respond	93	35%
N/A	2	1%
Total	262	100%

### **Tracking Analysis**

The answers of those 60 municipalities that answered this question in 2001 were proportionally virtually identical to that group's answers in 2004 as can be seen in the following chart (there were two municipalities that did not answer this question in 2004).

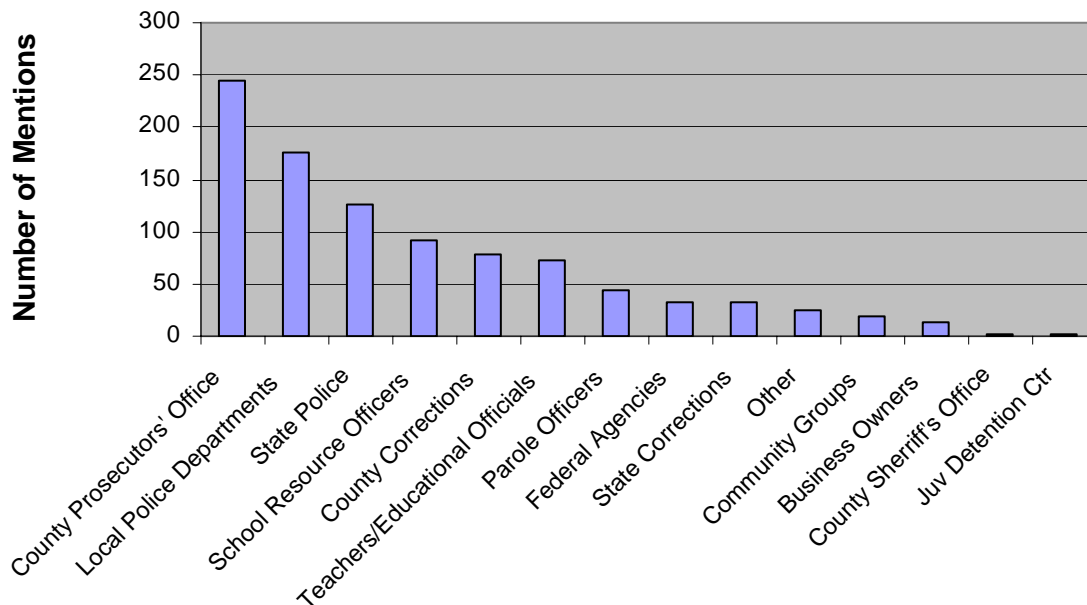
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### **2004 Survey**

332 jurisdictions responded to this question, citing 957 agencies with which they had frequent contact on gang-related issues. Jurisdictions reporting the presence of gangs accounted for 60% of all mentions (573), while agencies without gangs accounted for 40% of all mentions (384).

For both groups, county prosecutors' offices and local police departments received the highest proportion of mentions (25% and 18% of total, respectively). Almost three quarters of all respondents (73%) mentioned frequent contact with the county prosecutors' office and over half (53%) with other municipal police departments. Those jurisdictions with a presence of gangs reported a higher incidence of frequent contact with federal agencies and state corrections than jurisdictions with no gangs.

**Chart 8. Agencies With Whom Respondents Have Frequent Contact on the Issue of Gangs**



### **Task Forces**

***“During 2003, did your agency participate in a FORMAL multi-agency task force or collaborative effort that focused on street gang problems as a major concern? If yes, which ones?”***

### **2001 Survey** [ based on agencies reporting the presence of street gangs in their jurisdiction]

In 2001, the majority (66%) of agencies which responded to this question were not part of any formal task force which focused on gangs.

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## **2004 Survey**

[ based on all survey respondents]

*In the 2004 survey, we compared the response of municipal agencies reporting a gang presence in their communities with those agencies that did not.*

410 of all survey respondents (93%) answered this question. Almost two thirds (63%) of agencies reporting a gang presence reported they did not participate in a formal gang task force. That proportion rose to 80% among agencies that did not report gang presence.

**Table 14. Participation in Gang Task Forces  
Agencies Reporting Gangs**

<b>Task Force Participation</b>	<b># of Agencies</b>	<b>% of Agencies</b>
Yes	59	33%
No	112	63%
Don't Know	4	2%
Did Not Respond	2	1%
TOTAL	177	100%

**Table 15. Participation in Gang Task Forces  
Agencies with No Gang Presence**

<b>Task Force Participation</b>	<b># of Agencies</b>	<b>% of Agencies</b>
Yes	17	6%
No	214	82%
Don't Know	4	2%
Did Not Respond	27	10%
TOTAL	262	100%

## **Trend Analysis**

The majority of municipalities still are not participating in gang task forces regardless of whether or not gangs are present in their jurisdiction.

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## **Gang tracking/classification systems**

***“Does your department or agency have a system in place for classifying and tracking gang-related (member-based) and/or gang-motivated (motive-based) crimes?”***

*[ based on all survey respondents]*

### **2004 Survey**

*This question was asked of county agencies in the 2001 survey and was posed to municipal agencies for the first time in 2004. The question consisted of four parts, the first of which is stated above. Only those answering ‘yes’ to the first part were expected to answer subsequent parts of the question.*

Nearly all respondents (415 agencies or 95%) answered the first part of this question. Of those, 73% of respondents indicated that their agency did not have a system in place for classifying/tracking gangs. Only one quarter (26%) of respondents (or 109 agencies) reported that their agency used a gang classification and tracking system. Some of those respondents indicated that the system was not formalized. Four respondents did not know if their agency utilized a gang tracking or classification system.

***“If yes, is the system computerized?”***

All 109 respondents who answered 'yes' to the previous question responded to this question. 44% indicated that their agency used a computerized gang tracking/classification system, and half (54%) reported that their agency's system was not computerized. Two respondents did not know whether or not their agency's gang tracking system was computerized

***“Is it mandatory that officers contribute to the system?”***

Slightly more than half (56%) indicated that officers were required to contribute to the system, while 47 respondents (43%) reported that their agency had no mandatory reporting requirement in place.

***“What percentage of officers do you estimate contribute to the system?”***

Ninety agencies provided numerical estimates for this question. Significantly, nearly one third (32%) estimated that 100% of the officers in their agency contribute to its gang tracking/classification system. Put in perspective, these agencies represent just seven percent (7%) of the total survey sample.